

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure to read as follows:

A spinal fixation device for stabilizing one or more segments of the human spine and for preventing the dislodgement of intervertebral spinal fusion implants, which remains permanently fixated once applied. ~~The spinal fixation device of the present invention comprises of a~~A staple member made of material appropriate for human surgical implantation ~~which is~~ of sufficient length to span the disc space between two adjacent vertebrae and to engage, via essentially perpendicular extending projections, the vertebrae adjacent to that disc space. ~~A portion of the~~The staple of the spinal fixation device interdigitates with an already implanted intervertebral spinal fusion implant which ~~itself~~ spans the disc space to engage the adjacent vertebrae, and the spinal fixation device is bound to the spinal fusion implant by a locking means. The spinal fixation device ~~of the present invention is of great utility in restraining~~restrains the vertebrae adjacent to the spinal fusion implant from moving apart as the spine is extended and also serves as an anchor for a multi-segmental spinal alignment means for aligning more that one segment of the spine.